
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION BUREAU

**MOORING FACILITIES
WATERWAYS GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM**

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Program Description

Grants-in-aid are provided to local units of government for the construction of recreational boating facilities, including development and/or expansion of transient mooring projects.

Legislative History

This program was created through enactment of State of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC).

Grant Guidelines

Financial assistance is typically provided equal to 50% of the total cost of development of recreational transient mooring facilities. Eligible costs include, engineering and contingency costs as well as costs normally associated with construction of these facilities. In return, the local unit must provide the land free-of-charge and agree to operate and maintain the completed facility.

Grant Process

Upon receipt of an inquiry from a local unit, the program manager discusses with and/or visits the local unit, reviews the site and the proposed project, to determine available assistance. If the proposed project complies with planning goals for the program, and is approved by PRB, the program manager discusses with the local unit the next step. Typically, a preliminary engineering study is required to determine the design, cost and feasibility of constructing the proposed facilities. Preliminary engineering studies are conducted by the local unit with matching grant monies, 50% of the study cost, available from PRB. State and Federal permits are obtained during the study process. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Based on the Engineering Study, a determination is made by the local unit of its ability to participate in the project.

The local community then submits a grant request to PRB. Applications for funding are accepted at all times but must be submitted by April 1, of the application year, for funding consideration. The local unit is responsible for evaluation of environmental and/or historical concerns involving the site.

Project funding proposals are generally taken to the MSWC in June of each year. Grant applicants must show good performance on past Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants for proposal consideration. After MSWC and MDNR Director approval, specific appropriations for these projects are then requested of the Legislature. Grant monies are available until after October 1 of the year following MSWC approval, assuming legislative approval.

Funding Source

The restricted Waterways Fund, consists of revenues derived from 1.6% of state gasoline taxes and 17.5% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year. Federal Dingell-Johnson funds, from the Sport Fish Restoration Act, may be used to augment project funding.